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February 14, 2018

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM 2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of **Americares** (and the members/chapters/people we serve) we urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed rate increases for nonprofit organizations. Our organization relies on the United States Postal Service to raise funds and to communicate with our donors and supporters.

Americares mission is to save lives and improve health for people affected by poverty or disaster so they can reach their full potential. **Americares** uses the mail for fundraising to further our mission.

Americares is a health-focused relief and development organization. **Americares** is the leading global nonprofit provider of donated medicine and medical supplies, distributing over \$800 million in quality medicine and supplies to more than 90 countries each year.

The Postal Service plays a vital role in supporting the philanthropic sector. For **Americares**, it is the primary method we use to communicate with our supporters and raise the funds needed to carry out our mission. We have grave concerns about the negative impact the proposed rate increases – substantially above the rate of inflation – will have on our ability to accomplish our mission. If adopted as proposed, these rate increases will force our organization to reduce mail volume which will inevitably result in reduced revenue, and in turn, will force us to reduce the services, which consists of donated medicine and medical supplies to more than 90 countries each year (on which so many depend, or make it much more difficult to accomplish our mission).

We believe the current rate setting system where postal rates are tied to the Consumer Price Index should be maintained. It has succeeded in generating the funds necessary for the Postal Service to meet its ongoing operational needs, while also providing those that rely on the Postal Service with a stable and predictable rate structure. This is critical to our organization's ability to continue to use and rely on the mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we appreciate your review and consideration on behalf of our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Eileen Kelly'.

Eileen Kelly
Senior Associate
Direct Response